

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 3-14, 16-18, 20-24, 26, 27, 29, 30, 32-36, 39-41, 44, 46-57, 59-61, 63-67, 69, 70, 72, 73, 75-79, 82-84, and 87 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 44, and 87 being independent.

Claims 19 and 62 have been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 1, 20, 44, 63, and 87 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

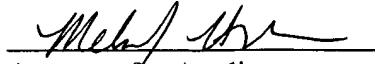
Applicants acknowledge the indication that Claims 19-20 and 62-63 contain allowable subject matter. Without conceding the propriety of the 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejections of the other pending claims, Applicants have herein amended independent Claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of allowable Claim 19, and independent Claims 44 and 87 to incorporate the subject matter of allowable Claim 62. Accordingly, Applicants submit that all of the independent claims are now allowable. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §103 rejections are requested.

Further, Applicants submit that the dependent claims should be allowable for the same reasons that the base claims from which they depend are allowable, and further due to the additional features that they recite. Individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration of the claims and passage to issue of the application at the Examiner's earliest convenience are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in Washington, D.C. by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to the below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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